

5 YEARS ADDED TO SPAN OF LIFE HERE

Doctors Report Change to That Extent in United States Since 1909.

NO PHYSICAL GAINS Race Not Improving, but Health Safeguards Have Been Increased.

2,400,000 ALWAYS ILL

Great Economic Saving Possibility With Improvements, Says Report to Hoover.

Durability of life in America has expanded by five years since 1909, according to the findings of the American Emergency Council's Committee on Elimination of Waste in Industry, appointed by Herbert Hoover. Morbidity surveys, it is stated, show an economic gain to the nation of millions of dollars through lessened disability and sickness.

It is estimated that at the present time 2,400,000 people are continually ill, whereas in 1909 the number was 3,000,000.

While national vitality is increasing there is still no reason to believe that the race is advancing physically, says the report. "It warns against what it terms 'real danger' in drawing a too sweeping conclusion by applying general death rates as the criterion for the physical advancement of the race. 'The actual physical records would in fact suggest that the present favorable death rate is due rather to a mitigation of the struggle for existence and a protection of the community from communicable disease than an actual upbuilding of the physique and underlying resistance of the people,' according to the report.

Man's period of full vigor and physical freedom is called brief compared to his life cycle, and to what might be attained by better breeding, better physical training, more intelligent care of his body and more rational adjustment to his work."

The report, dealing with health of industrial workers was prepared by Dr. Eugene Lyman Kirk and Dr. C. T. Sharpe of New York. By health examination, it is asserted, a net mark of economic gain of \$1,500,000,000 can be accomplished in addition to "excess dividends in health, happiness, satisfaction in living, prevention of pain, prevention of sorrow, prevention of discontentment and industrial unrest."

The report represents a survey of five periods of industrial life and it is discussed at a great national forum in connection with the annual meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, which is being held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, December 5 to 8.

It goes on to say: "In the report on national vitality prepared by Prof. Irving Fisher for the National Conservation Commission, appointed by President Roosevelt in 1909, it was estimated that there were about 2,000,000 persons seriously ill at all times in the United States and that 42 per cent of this figure was preventable with a resulting extension of life of over fifteen years."

"Even in the short period of time since that report was issued a measure of this reduction has been noted. The estimate of thirteen days' annual loss from illness must now be reduced to approximately seven. The duration of life has actually been extended probably a period of five years."

During 1913 to 1915 there was an average loss to more than \$6,000,000 American wage earners of about nine days per year. A fall in the general death rate from 1907 to 1917 of 2.3 per 1,000 indicated a saving of 240,000 lives in 1917. On the basis of two persons ill for every death there would be a saving of about 500,000 cases of illness.

How Figures Are Reached. "The sickness rates actually determined in recent studies," says the report, "show that 24 per cent of wage earners are constantly ill to an extent to be incapacitated. This would justify an estimate of approximately 2,400,000 people continually ill instead of 3,000,000."

Dealing with health conditions in industry, the report estimates a total loss among 42,000,000 workers, between the years of 10 to 65, of 428,000 lives in 1920 and a probable loss this year of 500,000.

The death rate in industry is given as 46 per 1,000, while in unskilled occupations, such as teachers and graduates of women's colleges, it is 2.3, as shown by an investigation of mortality among the graduates of Smith, Wellesley and Vassar.

Tuberculosis is the most important of epidemic and communicable diseases, labor. It lends support to the notion that fundamentally different types of human beings are engaged in these subdivisions of human activity. It is desirable to recognize that from the President of the United States to the laborer in the factories or on the farm all citizens are not physically incapacitated, or should be, workers."

DIES IN "L" ROAD STATION. Louis J. Strauss Succumbs to Heart Disease.

Louis J. Strauss, 46, a manufacturer, of 214 West Ninety-fourth street, was taken suddenly ill last night on a Sixth avenue elevated train and collapsed as the train pulled into the Forty-second street station. Other passengers carried the unconscious man to the station platform and summoned an ambulance from Bellevue Hospital. Dr. Heuton pronounced Mr. Strauss dead from heart disease.

Mr. Strauss, who was a manufacturer of ladies' wearing apparel and caps, had an office in the Maseco Lodge Building at Twenty-sixth street and Sixth avenue. He leaves a wife.

Advertisement. MOTHER! Your Child's Bowels Need "California Fig Syrup"

Possible lines of organization are suggested by the Federal State, community, industrial and national, State and local, extra-governmental health agencies. If a Federal Department of Health is not attainable, concentration of Federal health activities and related social activities in one department is suggested.

The eye section of the report stresses the need for campaigns in smaller plants. The cost for providing adequate lighting facilities for the entire industry of the country, it is asserted, would range from one-half to one per cent of wages.

The cost per capita of correcting vision, the report adds, instituting and carrying out measures of protection against hazards and bringing the lighting up to good standards is definitely greater in the small plant than in the larger ones—those employing 2,000 workers or more. These smaller plants are therefore less ready to take up any of these measures.

The report asserts that a "continued restriction of the term industrial worker" to mechanical factory labor operates in our judgment to erect an unnecessary and formal barrier between capital and

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